THE Lieutenant of the Tower his Speech and Repentance, at the time of his Death, who was executed vpon Tower hill, on the 20. day of November. 1615.

Together with a Meditation and Vow of his that hee made not long before he dyed.

Mors mihi Lucrum.

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Thomas Dexter

To the Reader.

TO satisfie the world, which in a cause of this Nature is commonly distracted into various opinions, adding or detracting from the truth, according to the humorous disposition with which it meets: and to doe Right to the dead Gentleman, who albeit his offence was soule to GOD and Man, and hatefull to himselfe, deserued both loue and pitty, for the Christian and Diuine made) haue I (Reader) for thy sake collected the substance of that Speech, deliuered by him before his Execution: though I may

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faile in circumstance, perhaps in his order. Many false copies of it passe from hand to hand, and many vntrue rumors of him. This (if thou art not too much giuen ouer to misbeleife) will stay both, as being with much labour gotten together, and confirmed by approbation of such iudgments as were then present, and neereſt, and best vnderstood him: though I confeſſe it falls short of that grace and life wherewith hee deliuered it; who, I must needs say, did it more exactly, euen beyond ordinary report. And so praying vnto Almighty God that thou mayeſt make that good vſe of this Diſcourſe as he meant (hee that made it, and as I doe that relate it,) I commit thee to God.

THE

The effect of Sir Geruase Ellowis his Speech, which hee *made at his death on the Tower Hill, vpon the* 20. *day of* Nouember. 1615.

I See many Faces in this place, which I know right wel, both Lords and Gentlemen whom I haue honored, and ſtil loue, with many others of ſeuerall diſpoſitions. All you being thus aſſembled to ſee me finiſh my daies, the number of which is ſum'd vp, for the very minutes of my life may now be reckoned: your expectation is to haue mee ſay ſomthing to giue ſatisfaction to the world; and I will do it ſo far as I can, albeit in that ſpeech of mine I ſhall (as it was ſpoken vnto mee the laſt night) but chatter like a Crane. But what-

ſoeuer

soeuer I deliuer, I beseech you to take from a wounded bosome; for my purpose is to rip vp my very heart, and to leaue nothing there which may proue any clog to my Conscience.

Hither am *I* come to performe a worke which of all others is to Man the most easie, and yet to flesh and blood is the hardest, and that is to dye. To hide therefore any thing for any worldly respect, were to leaue a blot vpon my owne soule, which I trust shall be presented through the mercies of my Maker, & merits of my Saulour, acceptable before Gods high Tribunall.

And first I will labour to satisfie some, who before my apprehension were well conceited of me, but since my arraignment, as *I* vnderstand, carried of me but hard opinions, for that at the Barre I stood stiffy vpon the iustice of my Innocence, and this they

they impute as a great fault, being afterwards that I was found guilty of the crime. To which I answer, that I did it ignorantly: nay I was so far from thinking my selfe foule in the fact, that vntill these two Gentlemen, (Doctor *Felton* and D. *Whiting*, the Phisitions for my soule) told me how deeply I had imbrewed my hands in the bloud of that Gentleman, making me by Gods law as guilty in the concealing, as if *I* had been a personall Actor in it: till then I say, I held my selfe so ignorant of the deed, and my Conscience so cleere, that *I* did neuer aske God forgiuenes, nor once repent me of the Fact; such was my blindnes. So that it was not onely an error, or rather a horrible sin, in me to consent, but a worse to deny it, so Bloudy, so Treacherous, so foule, so filthy a fact as that was; for which I must confesse, the King, and the State

haue

haue dealt honorably, roundly, and iustly with me, in condemning me vnto this death. And thus haue I laboured and done my best to cleere this point, being willing by all good meanes to reduce your first opinions of me; that as formerly you conceited well of me, so you would now with a charitable affection performe the last duty of your Christian loues towards mee; praying to God, both with me, and for me, to the intent that this cup, whereof I am to drinke, may not be greiuous vnto me, but that it may bee a ioyfull conueyance to a better and more blessed comfort.

Some perhaps wil think it to be a rigor of the State, or aggrauation of my iudgement, that I should die in this place: but this do I take as an honor vnto me, and herein do I acknowledge my selfe to stand much bound to the State, in that I haue this fauor vouchsafed me to suffer death in sight of

my

my *Charge*, euen where I had sinned, on the Tower-hill, rather then in the place of common Execution where euery base Malefactor dyeth.

Many doe I see here whom I know well, and of whom *I* am likewise knowne: and now am I a Spectacle for them to be looked on, whom in former times (and in all mens accounts (they held neuer likely to come to such an end. But herein behold the iustice of God, who is so opposed against sin, because that if we forget to seek him whilst we may, hee will find vs out when we would not be found of him.

It is expected *I* should say something of the fact which I haue committed: And hither am *I* come resolued to cleare my conscience (before I depart this world) of all matters which I either know, or can now remember. And so much *I* haue already deliuered in writing to my Lo. *Chiefe*

Iustice: and to proue that which I wrote is true, I yesterday confirmed it with the receiuing of the blessed Sacrament, wishing vnto you al as much comfort by those holy Mysteries, as I tooke by them: and I do heere (though not with such a bloud) yet with mine owne bloud, seale that which I haue written. For my selfe I will hide nothing to make my fault seeme lesse, but will rip open this very heart of mine, and confesse before God mine owne vncleannesse.

I haue sinned exceedingly against thee my maker, and in this am I most faulty, that I did not reueale to the King, so soone as I my selfe had knowledge of the businesse. But (alas) feare to loose these worldly pleasures, & the loue to promotion, made me forget my duty to my Soueraigne, and not to regard my God, who is a swift reuenger of blood: and would to heauen I had trusted to his prouidence, & set the things

of this world at nought, for heauens sake and a good Conscience. You see, Gentlemen, promotion cannot rescue vs from the iustice of God, which alwayes pursues after sin: And therefore I exhort you not to trust in men (how great soeuer,) for they cannot hide themselues when God is angry, neither can they protect you from shame, when God will confound you: hee that sitteth in heauen, will deride & scorne their foolish inuentions. As for me I will not spare to lay open my owne shame, Thinke you I care for the reputation of this world? No, I weigh it not. This my soule shal receiue more comfort from God in my vpright dealing.

My sinne, in this foule fact, was great: for vpon me lay all the blood, shed, and to be shed. I haue made many children fatherles, many wiues husbandles, many parents childelesse, and many sely leane a com-

fortlesse wife and eight children behind me for it too: for if I had reuealed it when I might, I had freed much blood from being spilt, in so much as I could wish (Gods iustice and charitie reserued) I might hang in chaines till I rotte away by peecemeale: nor cared I what tortures my body were put vnto, so I might expiate or free the blood of so many (some in one place and some in another) which is both like to be shed, and is already shed, and the Lord knowes when it will haue an end.

Concerning my selfe, I will agrauate the crime, by speaking of euery circumstance I can remember. And now it comes into my mind, what trust that Gentleman put into me: reputing me most faithfull vnto him: (Oh the vildnes of my hart!) I proued vnfaithfull, & was his deadly deceitfull friend.

And heere (Gentlemen) I exhort you all that you would take notice of this, euer to

be faithfull to those who put you in trust.

Sir *Thomas O.* trusted me, and I was vnfaithfull and treacherous to him, in drawing tickets from him to his disaduantage. I promised him secrecy, yet betrayed him, only to satisfie greatnes: but God, who sees the secret thoughts of mans hart, will disclose all vniust actions at last: nay I am perswaded that whosoeuer they be that commit sinne in their child-hood, at one time or other it will be reuealed.

In this place it commeth to my mind, that in my yonger daies (as well beyond the Seas as here) I was much addicted to that idle veyne of Gaming, I was bewitched with it indeed: and I played not for little or small sums neither, but for great-ones, yet euer haunted with ill luck: & vpon a time, being much displeased at my losse, I said, (not in a careles manner) would I might be hanged. But seriously, and aduisedlie (be-

tweene God & my self, clapping my hands vpon my breſt, I ſpake thus, If euer I plaie again, then let me be hangd. Now gentlemen here you may behold the iuſtice of God paying me my wiſh and imprecation home. Be careful therfore I exhort you that you vow nothing but that vnto which you will giue all diligence to performe: for the powerfull God, before whom you make ſuch vowes, will otherwiſe be avenged.

In this place D. Whiting *putting him in minde to ſatiſfie the World touching his Religion, thus he went on:*

THe matter you ſpeake to mee of, faith hee, is well thought vpon; for I heare that abroad hath beene ſome murmuring and queſtions made about mee for my Religion; ſome giuing out that I was infected with Anabaptiſme: A fond, ridiculous, fooliſh and phantaſticall opinion, which I neuer affected but rather deſpiſed. Many may thinke that the maner of my death doth much diſcourage mee, that I

ſhould

should die in a halter: I would haue you all to thinke that I scorne all such worldly thoughts: I care not for it, I value not any earthly shame at all, so as I may haue honor and glory anon in Heauen: & I make no doubt, but I shal sodainly be more happie then you all, & that I shal see God face to face: and if there be any point of innocency in me at all, I do vtterly cast it from me, and I doe commit it wholly to God.

And for any matter of glory, I doe with the Saints of God expect it through the merits of Christ, at the Resurrection: yea it is my glory to die thus. I might haue died in my bed, or shooting the Bridge, or else haue fallen down sodainly, in which death I should haue wanted this space to repent, being the sweet comfort and assured hope of Gods fauour which of his mercy hee hath vouchsafed me, so that it swalloweth vp all feare of death or reproach of the world: wishing vnto you all Gentlemen) who

now

now behold me, that whereſoeuer you ſhal dy, (either in your beds or els-where howſoeuer) you may feele ſuch comfort & reſolution, as God in his mercy hath beſtowed vpon me and my wounded Soule for this and the reſt of my greeuous Sinnes.

But me thinks I heare ſom of you conie&ture & ſay, that I expreſſe no great argumẽts or ſignes of ſorrow: You think my heart ſhould rather diſſolue and melt into teares, then to appeare ſo inſenſible of feare as *I* may ſeeme: but I muſt tell you, teares were neuer cõmon in me: I haue bin couragious both beyond the Seas & heer in mine owne country: but (*Gentlemen*) that was whẽ there was no peril before me. But now the ſtroke of death is vpon me. It affrights me, & there is cauſe to feare: yet notwithſtanding, my hart ſeemeth vnto you to be rather of ſtone than of fleſh. But I would haue yon vnderſtãd, that this boldnes doth not proceed frõ any

any manly fortitude, for I am a man, fraile as you are, and dare as little look death in the face as any other: the terrors of death doe as much trouble my humane sense, as any mans whatsoeuer: but that which ouerwhelmeth all manner of feare in me, and maketh me to glory and to reioyce in the full assurance which I conceiue of the vnspeakable loue of God to those whom he hath, of which number I perswade my selfe to bee one, and that I shall presently enioy it.

I confesse I haue sinned exceedingly against thee (oh God) many waies, in prophaning thy holy Sabaoths, in taking thy glorious name in vaine, in

my concupiscence in turning all thy graces into wantonnes, in my Riotous wasting so many of thy good Creatures, as would haue relieued many poore people, whose prayers I might haue had this day.

I haue sinned against thee in my Child-hood: but Childrens sinnes are childishly performed: but I committed them in my manhood, there was my sinne. I am perswaded, there is no sinne, that a man committeth in his life, knowing it to be a sin, and not repenting of it, but the Lord will iudge it.

I admonish you therefore that are

heere assembled, to take good notice of your sinnes, and let none escape you vnrepented. And yet when you have done the best you can, there will lie buried some one sinne or other sufficient to condemne you.

O Lord cleanse me from my secret sinnes, which are in me so rife. I abused the tender education of my Parents. You (perhaps that knew me) will say no; I liued in an honest forme, and was not bad in my life.

But I know best my selfe what I was: & if I who was so esteemed of among Men, shall scarcely be saued, what will

become of those, whom you point at for notorious liuers?

The last night God put into my mind the remembrance of one sinne of mine, which here I will lay open, that others may take heede. *I* tooke a vaine pride in my pen, and some of my friendes would tell me I had some indytements and speciall gift that way: (though I say not so my selfe) but marke the iudgement of God in this; that Pen which I was so proud of, hath stroke mee dead, and like *Absolons* hayre hath hanged me: for there hath dropt a word or two from my Pen, in a letter of mine, which upon my Salutation I am not able to answer, nor do giue any good ac-

compt

compt of. At my Arraignment I pleaded hard for life, & protested my innocency, but when my owne Pen came against mee, I was forthwith not able to speake any thing for my selfe: for I stood as one amazed, or that had no Tongue.

See (Gentlemen) the iust Iudgement of GOD, who made that thing of which I was most proud, to be my bane: take notice how strangely sinne is punished, and learne euery-one to striue against it.

I haue heard the word of GOD, and often read it: (but without vse) for I must tell you, these two worthy

Gentlemen (to whom I am so much bounden, God reward them for their loue) euen they begat mee very lately: for I am not ashamed to confesse that I was to be begotten vnto Christ within these three daies: yea I haue often prayed against sinne, and made many vowes to forsake it, but vppon the next occasion, my foule heart hath beene ready to runne with the wicked.

Had I learned but this one lesson in the 119. Psalme, (Depart from mee ye wicked, I will keepe the Commandements of my God &c.) I had beene likely to haue enioyed many dayes heere on earth: whereas now you

all fitted ready to bee cut short by reason of my sinne.

But (O LORD) albeit thou slayest mee, yet will I put my trust in thee: let the LORD doe to me what hee will, I will dye vpon this hand: (of trusting in him) if I faile many a soule hath miss'd, but I haue sure hope of mercy in him; hee hath sufficed and succoured mee, I am sure, euer since the sentence of death hath passed vppon mee: such comfort flowing from the Godly indeauors of these Gentlemen (the Diuines) that neither the Reproach of this Death, nor the Torment

Torment of it hath any whit discouraged me; nay, let me tell you, the last night when *I* heard the time was appoynted, and saw the warrant in Master Sheriffs hand for my death, it no whit daunted me: But what put this courage into me? onely the hope which I had in GODS mercies.

This Hope was a Seede, and this Seed must come from a Roote. *I* looked upon my selfe, and there was rather cause to despaire; and iust cause, that *I* should not approach GODS presence. Thus then I disputed with GOD: This Hope being a Seede must haue a Roote, and this Roote is not any thing in Man; no, it is *Præ-*

scientia

Scientiæ (thy fore-knowledge,) O God, who hast elected me from eternity.

I will tell you, I receiued more comfort this morning, comming along the streetes, than euer *I* did in all my life. I saw much people gathered together, all the way as I came, to see mee brought to this shamefull end: who with their hearty prayers and well wishings gladded and comforted my very soule: insomuch as *I* could wish that I had come from Westminster hither. I protest vnto you, *I* thinke I could neuer haue dyed so happily in my bed.

But you will say, these are but speeches, and that I being so neere death,

my heart cannot be so free, as I seeme in my speech: I confesse, there are in my breast frailties, which doe terrifie, and will still be busie with me, but I beseech you when I am at the stroake of death, that you would praie to GOD (with mee) that neither *Sathans* power, nor my weaknesse, may hinder my confidence. And beseech God that amongst all who this daie heare mee, some may profit by my end: if I get but one Soule, I shall haue much comfort in that; for that one soule may beget another, and that other another.

I haue held you too long, but I will draw to an end: intreating you all to ioyne in praier to God for me.

Tower his Speech.

The summe of his Prayer.

O *Lord God omnipotent, who sittest in Heauen, and seest all things which are done on earth: to whom are knowne all occasions of men; And who dost deride and laugh to scorne their Foolish inuentions: thou (Lord) who art powerfull to Saue at an instant, how do we the heauens, and behold Mee (wretched sinner!) vnworthy to looke vp, or lift vp my hands vnto thee. Remember not (O Lord) the sinnes which I haue committed. Driue away this Mist which is before mee; and breake those thick Clowdes which my sinnes haue made, and may let my request to come into thy presence. Strengthen mee in the middest of Death, in the assurance of thy*

Mercies; and giue mee a ioyfull Passage into thy Heauenly Rest, now and for euer. Amen.

After hee had thus Prayed, hee tooke his leaue of all, with these words.

GEntlemen, I shall see your faces now no more: and pulling down his Cap in his eies, said some priuat prayers, in which time the Doctors prayed, and called to him, that hee would remember his assurance, and not be dismaied at the Cup, that hee was to drinke of: Hee answered *I will drinke it vp, and neuer looke what is in it.* And after a little time more spent in

priuat

Priuat prayer, hee said, *Lord receaue my Soule*: And so yeelded vp the Ghost.

His Meditation and Vow, not long before his Death.

VVHen I *considered* Herods *State, who though hee heard* Iohn Baptist *gladly, yet was he intangled with* Herodias: *and how* Agrippa *liked so well of* Paul *as hee was perswaded almost to become a Christian: and how the young mans will was good to follow* Christ, *yet was there one thing wanting: mee thought the state of sinfull man was not vnlike. So also how the Angler, though hauing caught a Fish but by the chaps, accounts it as his*

owne: the Bird taken but by the heele is a prey vnto the Fowler: the Iayler also holds his prisoner by one ioint as safe, as cast in iron chaines: then did I think what do these motions good, if not effected to the full? what though not notoriously euill? one sinne sufficeth to condemn: and is he guilty of all that guilty is of one? then said I vnto the Lord I will freely cleanse my waies and wash my hands in innocency: I will take heed that I offend not in my tongue. Lord let my thoughts be such as I may alwaies say, try and examine mee if there be any vnrighteousnes in mee.

Sir Geruase Ellowis.

FINIS.